

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 6, 2005. Claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 10 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 6 are in independent form. Claims 2, 7, and 8 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 2 includes allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. By the present Amendment, Claim 2 has been canceled and the essential subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claims 1 and 6. Applicants note that Claim 1 is an apparatus claim and Claim 6 is a method claim with subject matter similar to that of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 6 are in condition for allowance. The other remaining amended depend from either Claim 1 or Claim 6 and therefore also are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

As mentioned above, Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled, thus rendering their rejections moot.

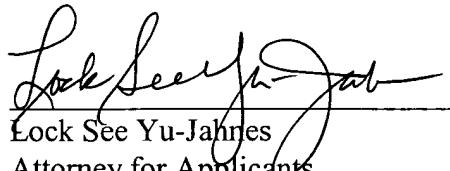
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Lock See Yu-Jahnes
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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